

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Matthew Schramm, Pastor of Bay City's Westminster Presbyterian Church in my district, who delivered this morning's opening and very inspiring prayer.

I am pleased to welcome Pastor Schramm and his family to the U.S. Capitol, and to thank him for his continued service to our community. Westminster Presbyterian Church is one of the oldest churches in Bay City, helping to share love, faith, and hope with its congregants and others across Michigan.

In addition to serving his congregation, Reverend Schramm served as the youngest-ever chair of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, the ministry agency and the board of trustees for the Nation's largest body of Presbyterians.

Reverend Schramm not only serves at the church altar, but also in the community as well. He serves on Bay County's Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Board, the Do-Care Family Enrichment Center advisory board, and the McLaren Bay medical region's Medical Ethics Advisory Board.

Pastor Schramm, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, thank you for being here today. I hope that your uplifting words that you shared with us will give us the courage to work together in pursuit of the common good for all Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE MANMADE CRISIS ON THE TEXAS BORDER

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have been to the border many times, but I never expected to witness what I saw last Friday, a real manmade crisis. The President's failure to secure our border and uphold the rule of law has led to this mess, and now he is failing to deal with it.

While President Obama is nowhere to be found, Texas Governor Rick Perry has made stopping the crisis his number one priority. I commend him on his latest decision to deploy the Texas National Guard to help secure the southern border. I am also grateful for the men and women working around the clock to control the crisis.

Securing the border will help send a clear message to countries that, if you enter illegally, you will not be allowed to stay. And that is the right thing to do. We are a Nation of laws, and there is a process for coming to America.

Texans and the American people deserve real border security now.

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Parks and Recreation Month. This month plays an important role in engaging in educating Americans on the many advantages of parks and recreation facilities and how they play a vital role in the health, safety, and economies of our Nation's communities.

This nationally celebrated month aims to connect Americans with their natural outdoor environment through exercise, recreation, relaxation, and congregation. It is also an opportunity to recognize those tasked with the design, management, and conservation of our parks and recreational spaces, such as landscape architects, city planners, nonprofit organizations, and parks and recreation professionals.

Unfortunately, too many Americans, including children, live in communities with deteriorating parks and outdoor facilities, which hinders their ability to enjoy outside activities. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, nearly three out of every 10 adults in our country do not spend time outside on a daily basis.

I believe that all cities, neighborhoods, and communities should have access to parks, which is why I introduced H.R. 2424, the Community Parks Revitalization Act. This legislation would help rehabilitate existing and develop new community parks.

EPA'S WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the EPA's proposed Waters of the U.S. rule.

This rule will dramatically expand the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction by changing current law that limits EPA's authority to "navigable waters." Under this new rule, EPA authority will apply to any body of water that has a bed, a bank, or a high water mark.

Hoosier farmers explain to me that this new rule means that large puddles left after a storm will fall under the EPA's jurisdiction. Farmers may have to get a permit to perform even the most basic tasks on their own land.

My constituents brought me these photos to show what changing the rule will mean. As you can see, this is not a stream, it is not a navigable body of water or a longstanding body of water. It should not be regulated by the EPA. It happened just after a large rainfall.

Mr. Speaker, this rule change will prevent farmers from doing their jobs, put people out of work, and increase food prices. It is bad for our Nation's landowners, it is bad for our Nation's

farmers, and it is bad for Americans trying to put an affordable meal on the table.

Mr. Speaker, I ask EPA to withdraw this rule.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT HAMILTON

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, southeastern Connecticut last Friday suffered a terrible loss with the sudden passing of Bob Hamilton, a long time military affairs reporter for the New London Day.

Over the years, Bob covered the Grot-on sub base and earned a well-deserved reputation for accuracy, intelligence, and fairness. And that is the reason why the U.S. Navy selected him as the first reporter to be on a combat submarine in the opening days of Operation Enduring Freedom, when the opening salvo of tomahawk missiles brought down the Taliban regime.

In the last few years, Bob has been director of communications at Electric Boat shipyard, and was part of the team effort to boost submarine shipbuilding that resulted in the largest contract in the Navy to build Virginia class submarines, at two submarines a year.

Again, he passed away suddenly last Friday, leaving his wife, Kathryn, and three children, a terrible loss.

I would ask the Chamber to join me in expressing condolences to Kathryn, and salute the great example that Bob set in terms of good journalism, great advocacy for the national defense, and for being an outstanding human being.

THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION IS FAILING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight a tragic story that emerged last week that captures how the failures of the Veterans Administration, those failures are hurting our veterans.

For 2 years, Vietnam veteran Michael Sulsona, from Graniteville, New York, a double amputee, had been waiting for a new wheelchair from the VA. His request was ignored.

On July 7, his wheelchair fell apart again while he was shopping at his local Lowe's home improvement center. What happened next captures the essence of American compassion and concern for our Nation's veterans.

Three of Lowe's employees immediately jumped into action and said to the veteran, "We're going to make this chair like new." Forty-five minutes after the store closed, they delivered on their promise.

These three men embodied the American spirit by immediately helping this